

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 01557 171613Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
 USIA-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12
 IO-14 ARA-14 HA-05 MCT-01 /128 W
 -----027900 171636Z /45

P 171447Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 756
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1557

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, MOPS, RH, ZA
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: ZAMBIAN RAID

REF: PRETORIA 1312

1. THE MARCH 12 RHODESIAN HERALD, JUST RECEIVED AT THE
EMBASSY, QUOTES THAT COMMANDER OF COMBINED OPERATIONS, GENERAL
PETER WALLS, AS SAYING IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW THAT DOCU-
MENTS CAPTURED IN THE ZAMBIAN RAID REVEALED THAT RUSSIANS AND
CUBANS WERE INVOLVED IN AND DIRECTING THE WAR AGAINST
RHODESIA. WALLS GAVE NO OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE DOCUMENTS
EXCEPT TO SAY THEY WERE FOUND IN "A BLUE TENT" AT THE
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KAVALAMANJA GUERRILLA BASE WHICH WAS 16KM WEST OF
KANYEMBA. THE TEST WAS, ACCORDING TO WALLS, THE COMMAND
POST.

2. WALLS, AND OTHER ARMY OFFICERS WHO APPEARED WITH
HIM, EMPHATICALLY DENIED ATTACKING ANY CIVILIAN TARGETS.
THEY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THEY HAD MADE CONTACT WITH

ZAMBIAN FORCES. THE SECURITY FORCES HAD TAKEN A DAY AND A HALF TO REACH THE GUERRILLA BASE, ONE OFFICER STATED, AND HAD RUN INTO AND EXCHANGED FIRE WITH A ZAMBIAN "PROBING PATROL". LATER THEY WERE FIRED UPON BY A LARGER ZAMBIAN FORCE AND HAD TO CALL IN AN AIR STRIKE, AFTER WHICH THE ZAMBIANS "TOOK NO FURTHER INTEREST. THEY WERE INTERFERING SO THEY WERE DEALT WITH." THE REST OF THE INTERVIEW CONCURS WITH THE OFFICIAL RHODESIAN STATEMENT (REFTEL) ON THE REASONS FOR THE INCURSION, EXCEPT THAT IT IS CLAIMED 42 GUERRILLAS WERE KILLED. WALLS SAHS FINALLY THAT, "NO MATTER WHAT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS ARE, THE JOB OF THE SECURITY FORCES REMAINS THE SAME -- A RESPONSIBILITY TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY AND DEFEND THE LIVE OF ALL RHODESIANS, REGARDLESS OF COLOR." TO DO THIS, THE SECURITY FORCES HAD TO "OPERATE ON OUR BORDER AND BEYOND OUR BORDERS."
BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, MOPS, PBOR, RH, ZA, UR, CU
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